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anthropological study of the busts and portraits of Shakespeare and Burns.

THE library of the late Professor Ernest Ziegler, formerly professor of pathology at the University of Freiburg, purchased for the University of Pittsburgh by Mr. Richard Beatty Mellen was formally presented to the university at a meeting held in the University Club, Pittsburgh, December 5. The addresses of the evening were given by Dr. William H. Welch, Baltimore, and Mr. Harrison W. Carver, Pittsburgh.

DR. S. WEIR MITCHELL, distinguished as a man of science, as a man of letters and as a physician, died at his home in Philadelphia, on January 7, at the age of nearly eighty-four years.

DR. SETH CARLO CHANDLER, the distinguished astronomer, at one time assistant to Dr. B. A. Gould, aid in the U. S. Coast Survey and in the Harvard College Observatory, since 1885 engaged in private investigation, died on January 31, at the age of sixty-seven years.

DR. FREDERICK CARL BUSCH, for some years professor of physiology at the University of Buffalo, recently engaged in cancer research, died from that disease on January 3, aged forty years.

HIRAM JOHN MESSENGER, Ph.D. (Cornell), for the last fifteen years the actuary of the Travelers Insurance Company, at one time associate professor of mathematics in New York University, author of publications on social statistics, died at his home in Hartford, Conn., on December 15.

By the will of the late Mr. Arnold Friedlander, an English merchant, \$25,000 is left for a cancer research fund.

THE Ecuadorean government has approved the contract with a London firm for the sanitation of Guayaquil. The question of cleaning up Guayaquil has been under consideration for a long time. Bubonic plague and yellow fever have been prevalent there, and the proper sanitation of the port was made the subject of an investigation by Colonel

William C. Gorgas, head of the sanitary work in the Panama Canal zone. The installation of a proper sanitary system has been made imperative by the early opening of the Panama Canal. It is understood that the cost of the work will approximate \$10,000,000.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE movement for the establishment of a national university in Washington on the plan indorsed by the National Association of State Universities is taking form, and President James, of the University of Illinois, has, it is understood, commenced the preparation of a bill soon to be submitted to President Wilson for his approval and afterwards to be introduced in both houses of Congress. The bill will carry a preliminary appropriation of \$500,000 toward the establishment of a university to be under the control of a board appointed by the president of the United States. It will propose an advisory board made up of one delegate from each state to frame the policy of the institution.

THE will of the late Seth K. Sweetser, of Brookline, Mass., makes public bequests amounting to \$137,000, including \$25,000 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that the Cleveland City Hospital and the school of medicine of Western Reserve University are to be affiliated. The agreement which will be entered into by the city and the university will provide that all members of the visiting staff of the City Hospital shall be nominated by the trustees of Western Reserve University upon recommendation by the faculty of the school of medicine. The visiting staff will have absolute authority over the professional treatment of all patients of the hospital. The director of public welfare will be the administrative head of the hospital. The university will have all teaching and research privileges.

TWELVE colleges, hospitals and charitable institutions of Minnesota, nine of them in Minneapolis, are the recipients of New Year's gifts aggregating \$230,000 from David D. Stewart, of St. Albans, Me., who inherited the

estate of the late Levi M. Stewart, of Minneapolis. Mr. Stewart in the last year has given away \$630,000, practically half of the estate that was left him. About \$400,000 went to churches, colleges and charitable institutions in Maine.

By the action of a New Haven court Yale University is adjudged not entitled to a legacy of \$700,000. The money was devised by Mrs. Henry O. Hotchkiss, who died last year. The court rules that the will is void because Mrs. Hotchkiss did not get for herself complete and ultimate control of the money.

DR. JOHN HUSTON FINLEY was installed president of the University of the State of New York and commissioner of education on January 2. The inaugural address by Dr. Finley was given in the afternoon session. Other speakers included St. Clair McKelway, chancellor of the university; Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, and Calvin N. Kendall, commissioner of education of New Jersey. The program for the evening included addresses by Governor Glynn, Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior; Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University, and Jean J. Jusserand, ambassador from France.

THE American Political Science Association at its Washington meeting last week adopted a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of three "to examine and report upon the present situation in American educational institutions as to liberty of thought, freedom of speech and security of tenure for teachers of political science." The committee was authorized to cooperate with similar bodies of other societies of the social sciences.

THE examiners for the Shaw Fellowship open to graduates in philosophy of the four Scottish universities have recommended that it be awarded to Mr. G. A. Johnston, of Glasgow. It is of the annual value of about £160, and is tenable for five years.

MR. A. E. MORTIMER-WOOLF has been appointed demonstrator in the department of anatomy at King's College, London.

MR. GEORGE SENTER, D.Sc. (Lond.), Ph.D. (Leipzig), reader in chemistry in the University of London and lecturer in chemistry at St. Mary's Medical School, has been appointed head of the department of chemistry at Birkbeck College, London, in succession to Dr. Alexander McKenzie, who has been elected to the chair of chemistry at University College, Dundee (University of St. Andrews).

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### A MODERN TEXT-BOOK OF GEOLOGY—AND EVOLUTION

TIME, after all, is a matter of relativity for most of us. To-day, under circumstances, may really be yesterday. A little scientific book of the time of the middle of last century—a few years, say, after the publication of Darwin's "Origin"—has just come under my eyes. But it could not have come much before because its title page bears the imprint, "Quebec, 1913."

It is a little text-book (in French) of geology: "Abrégé de Géologie, par L'Abbe V.-A. Huard, A.M., Directeur du Naturaliste Canadien, Conservateur du Musée de l'Instruction Publique, et Entomologiste officiel de la Province de Quebec."

It is one of a series of similar books by the same author (zoology, botany, mineralogy, geology) which form a "Cours abrégé d'histoire naturelle, à l'usage des maisons d'éducation." It is, in other words, an introduction and guide to science for the rising generation of French Canadians.

It comprises six chapters about the earth's crust, the agents that modify it and the fossils that lie in it; and a seventh divided into two articles: "Art. 1, L'histoire primitive du genre humain; Art. 2, Ce qu'il faut penser du transformisme." It is this last chapter particularly that seizes one's attention.

The first paragraph of the first article concerns the "age of the human species." It is as follows:

"The infallible authority of the Church—[have I neglected to mention that the reverse